

Tips for Finding Old Immunization Records



Your immunization history is important. Immunization records are needed at doctor visits and to meet childcare, summer camp, and school (including college and post-secondary training and education) immunization requirements. Your records may be needed for a job or international travel. If you have a copy of your immunization record, keep it safe. If the record is lost, it can be a challenge to replace. Here are some tips on how to find old immunization records.

Where to look for old immunization records?

- **Family Records:** Look through family records, such as baby books. Remember to look through old papers, such as camp and medical forms.
- **Doctor Offices or Clinics:** Check with all previous health care providers, including the local health department, where immunizations may have been given.
 - Don't forget that sometimes when a physician retires or the medical practice changes hands, old patient records may be stored electronically or in a storage unit. It may be possible to obtain records, for a fee, from the company.
- **School (including preschool through college) or Childcare Provider:** Schools and licensed childcare providers must verify immunizations for students. Check schools or any childcare provider that was attended, to see what immunization records have been kept. For some teens, vaccines are required for college entry. Don't forget to check colleges attended to see if any records have been kept.
- **Previous Employers:** Check with previous employers (including military) that may have required immunizations in an employee personal file.
- **An Immunization Registry (immunization information system):** The Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) for Michigan is a confidential, computerized system for storing immunization records. The registry has the ability to collect reliable immunization information and gather vaccine history from multiple providers.

What immunization records are in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR)?

Immunization records have been stored in the MCIR since 1994. MCIR is a lifespan registry. MCIR requires the reporting of childhood vaccines through age 19 years, and highly recommends the reporting of adult vaccination records. Not all records may be in the registry.

How to obtain an immunization record through MCIR?

Information about how you can find MCIR immunization records can be obtained from your physician, local health department, or MCIR website www.mcir.org. Computerized immunization records for Michiganders are easy to find with MCIR. The registry provides a complete history of immunizations to help get needed vaccines at the right time and provides printed immunization records that can be used for things such as but not restricted to daycare, school, or camp registration. If you have been [immunized](#) in the State of Michigan, you may be able to download your Immunization Record from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). Immunizations given in another state may require contacting the registry in that state, in order to get a complete record. A list of registries can be found at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/contacts-locate-records.html#state.

What do I do if I can't find my record?

You and your provider will discuss the next steps towards updating your immunization status. No national registry maintains this information. So, if immunization records are lost or not available, you or your child may need to repeat vaccine doses.

What to do if you find your record? Congratulations! Now you should take the records to your provider or local health department and ask them to document this information on an official record, and, if possible, in the state or local immunization registry. Many schools, camps, etc., will accept only this type of "provider-verified" record because this ensures the information has been verified by a medical professional. Be sure to keep a copy with your home records and place all your supporting documentation in a safe place where you can find it. It is a good idea to take a picture of records with a smartphone or scan and save a copy electronically.